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## COWED THE THIEVES.

How an Energetic Captain Recovered the Money Stolen From One of His Crew.

Attaching a man's property for debt is supposed to be a legal process, but an incident which occurred years ago in the city of Natchez, as related by Davy Crockett in his "Life and Adventures," shows that there are other "attachments" which sometimes accomplish a beneficial purpose.

An odd affair occurred when I was last at Natchez, declared Mr. Crockett. A steamboat stopped at the landing, and one of the crew went ashore to purchase provisions. He went into a saloon on the way, and the adroit inmates contrived to rob him of all his money. The captain of the boat, a determined fellow, went ashore in the hope of persuading them to refund, but they declined.

Without further ceremony the captain, assisted by his crew and passengers, some 300 or 400 in number, made fast an immense cable to the frame building where the theft had been committed. Then he allowed fifteen minutes for the money to be forthcoming, vowing that if it were not produced within that time he would put steam to his boat and drag the house into the river.

The thieves knew that he would keep his word, and the money was promptly produced.

## PRESENCE OF MIND.

The Earl Kept His Head, and the Highwayman Lost His.

In "Sporting Days and Sporting Ways" Ralph Nevill relates two incidents of the early nineteenth century in which English highwaymen figure.

"In August, 1819, Lady Stanley, traveling from York accompanied by her servant, was stopped by a highwayman, when the maid in her alarm took up a bottle of ginger beer, and the cork flying out made such a report that the highwayman instantly galloped off in great alarm."

Lord Berkeley's encounter with one of the famous "gentlemen of the road" had more serious consequences:

"Being driven over Hounslow Heath he was awakened from sleep by his coach being brought to a standstill and a threatening face looking in at the window."

"I have you at last, my lord," said a gruff voice, "though you said you would never yield to a robber. Deliver!" "Certainly," was the earl's reply, "but tell me first who is that looking over your shoulder?"

"The highwayman turned his head to look and at the same moment Lord Berkeley shot him through the head dead."

The Lion of St. Mark. The symbol of the Venetian republic—the famous lion of St. Mark—is made of bronze. There is a tradition among the Venetian people that its eyes are diamonds. They are really white, agate, faceted. Its mane is most elaborately wrought, and its retracted, gaping mouth and its fierce mustaches give it an oriental aspect. The creature as it now stands belongs to many different epochs, varying from some date previous to our era down to this century. It is conjectured that it may have originally formed a part of the decoration of some Assyrian palace. St. Mark's lion it certainly was not originally, for it was made to stand level upon the ground and had to be raised up in front to allow the evangel to be slipped under its fore paws.

The Very Oldest Inn. Which is the oldest inn in England? The title deeds of the Saracen's Head at Newark date back to 1341, and local antiquaries cite documentary evidence to prove that the Seven Stars at Manchester existed before the year 1356. There is even a legend that the wife of Earl Godwin stayed at the Fountain at Canterbury in 1029. "But what are all these compared with the Fighting Cock at St. Albans, mentioned in 'Old Country Inn,' and said to be the oldest inhabited house in England? A few years ago its signboard modestly chronicled the fact that it had been 'rebuilt after the flood.'"

The Tree Frog of Paraguay. In the manner of disposing of their eggs many species of frogs exhibit remarkable peculiarities. A tree frog, native of Paraguay, makes its nest in a bush overhanging a pond. The lower ends of a number of leaves are drawn together and fixed in that position by a number of empty egg capsules. The eggs are also covered with a shield of empty capsules to protect them from the sun and air. When the eggs are hatched the plug at the bottom appears to fall out and the tadpoles tumble into the water.

A Way to Do It. Mrs. Binks—The people in the next suit to ours are awfully annoying. They actually pound on the wall every time our Mamie sings. I wish we knew of some way to drive them out of the flat.

"Why not have Mamie keep on singing?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Out of His Class. Dissatisfied Patron—Gentle disposition! Why, he wants to bite the head off every dog he meets. I've been swindled! Dog Merchant—You didn't ought to keep dogs at all, mister. The animals you ought to keep wiv your temperament is silkworms!—London Punch.

Timely. Howell—He doesn't know much. Powell—No; he couldn't tell a dog watch from a cuckoo clock.—Exchange.

## LEGAL BLUNDERS.

A Querer Decree of Divorce Issued by a French Judge—Confusion of an English Court.

Some years ago, it is said, a legal blunder of a most extraordinary character was committed in one of the divorce courts in Paris. By some misapprehension on the part of the presiding judge, whose papers and mind had got confused, he actually mistook the name of an advocate who had been arguing a petition for the name of the petitioner himself and in granting and signing the decree of dissolution of marriage of the petitioner unwittingly substituted the advocate's name for the petitioner's and thus divorced the lawyer from his wife instead of granting the prayed for release of the advocate's client. As the lawyer had no desire for separation from his wife and as there was no process for annulling an absolute decree for divorce, it became necessary through this judicial error for the man of law to remarry his spouse without delay, and this he did.

A somewhat similar error was committed in the English court of chancery. There had been a litigation over some property, which was held by one man and claimed by another of the same name. In evading some order of the court the holder of the property had committed a contempt, and on this being called to the attention of the judge an order issued for the summoning, not of the guilty party, but of the claimant of the same surname, and the order, a very severe one, was actually in execution before the error was discovered.—New York Press.

## BOOKS IN OLD ROME.

Trained Slave Copyists Turned Them Out Quick and Cheap.

There were in Augustan Rome established publishing houses which not only turned out large numbers of books, but many editions of them and at an incredibly small price. That their arrangements were businesslike may be inferred from the testimony of Horace. He relates that when an author failed to please the metropolis the publishers shipped the entire edition of his works to the provinces, and if he still failed as a writer they made arrangements to bring them back again and sell them as paper to the pastry and spice shops.

One great firm in Rome had over 2,000 trained slave copyists, and their work was swift and cheap, for Martial writes that they had ready an edition of a thousand copies of his "Epigrams" in just one hour, to be sold at 10 cents a copy. The exceedingly large reading public which all this indicates must have been many years in growing, and one may assume that Rome had long been a city of readers. Atticus, the publisher of Cicero, had a great many modern methods in the conduct of his business, and the fact that Caesar's "Commentaries" were very quickly dispatched to the outposts of civilization shows that the machinery of distribution was also well organized. Thus we may conclude that the advertising and publicity department was in good shape.—Bookman.

## Husky Dogs of Labrador.

All along the coast at every Eskimo encampment and about the cabins of the liveyeres are numbers of husky dogs. In winter these animals pull the sledges and form the sole means of travel or communication from settlement to settlement. During the summer they are not fed by their owners, but are left to seek their sustenance as best they can; hence the hungry brutes range the land near the coast and add to the problems of Labrador, as they permit no creature to live that they can pull down. If a horse were to be turned out to grass overnight only its bare bones would be found in the morning. Even to human beings they are sometimes dangerous when night begins to fall, and on occasion when hard driven by hunger they have been known to attack children in the day. Considering they are hardly ever fed in the summer, one only wonders that there are not more ill deeds to set to their account.—Wide World Magazine.

## A Tramp's Story.

"You say you were once the editor of a newspaper?"

"Yes, lady, and it was a very bright little sheet, if I do say it."

"How does it happen, then, that you are forced to ask at back doors for meals?"

"It is merely a case of the irony of fate. I had a printer who was near-sighted, and one afternoon when he made up the paper he got a wedding notice and a murder trial mixed, so that after describing the costume of the bride it said the condemned man almost collapsed when sentence was pronounced."—Chicago Record-Herald.

## Strict Golf.

"You mustn't touch the ball. Use a stick."

"How am I going to get it out of a mudhole with a stick? Caddy, go over to the clubhouse and borrow a pair of tongs."—Pittsburg Post.

## Hard Work.

"A mounted policeman must have a hard time."

"How so?"

"It can't be an easy matter to sleep on horseback."—Judge.

## Saving Money.

Mrs. Muggins—Don't you ever try to save any money? Mr. Muggins—Sure. I saved \$4 today. Borrowed struck me for \$5, and I only let him have \$1.—Philadelphia Record.

## DRUGS OF ANTIQUITY.

Some of the Doses That Mankind Had to Swallow Thousands of Years Ago.

It is admitted that the oldest medical work known is the Ebers papyrus, discovered by Georg Ebers in his journey to Egypt in 1872-3. It is a scroll twenty yards long and a foot wide and has been studied and translated by Von Oefele and reviewed by Von Lippmann. It was written about 1550 B. C., though some of the material of which it is a compilation dates back to about 3700 B. C.

The medical substances mentioned include copper—once more costly than gold and silver—lead, iron, antimony, carbon, sulphur, salt, soda, gypsum and other minerals; milk, fats from many animals, wax, and the horn, blood and other portions of domestic and wild animals; castor and other oils, honey, raisins, grapes, figs, dates, wine, beer, linen, flax, lanolin, papyrus, numerous resins, caraway, fennel, dill, melioid, watercress, peppermint, coriander, lettuce, endive, absinth, pomegranate, calamus, aloes, safflower, crocus, indigo, henbane, mandrake, opium and other plants and vegetable products.

In preparing drugs solids were grated or powdered in a stone mortar. There were many processes of treating them, such as roasting, baking, pressing, steeping, warming, boiling in various substances, macerating with lye, evaporating and fermenting with yeast. Liquids were filtered and clarified. Some recipes contain two or three ingredients, but others have as many as thirty-seven materials.

## GIBRALTAR.

The "Key of the Mediterranean" Has Had a Stormy History.

England has been in possession of the rocky promontory of Gibraltar since 1704. From that time to this it has been a crown colony under the administration of a governor. By reason of its important strategic position it is called the "key of the Mediterranean."

Gibraltar has had a stormy history. In 711 the rock was taken by the Arab chief Tarik, who called it Jebel-al-Tarik (Hill of Tarik) and built a fortress on the promontory. Part of these ruins are still extant. In 1309 it was taken by the Castilians, only to be recaptured by the Moors in 1333. It was held by them until 1462. Following the taking and sacking of Gibraltar in 1540 by Barbarossa, extensive military works were built there by order of Charles V.

In 1704 the promontory was captured by a combined force under Sir George Rooke and the Prince of Hesse-Darmstadt, fighting for the Archduke Charles of Austria. The moment it fell into their hands the British admiral threw off the alliance with the Austrians and took complete possession of the works.

British possession since that time has been unbroken, although it was under a Spanish siege for nearly three years and eight months, beginning in 1779. Twice the garrison was on the point of falling because of the starvation of its defenders.

## Right on the Job.

At the time Dewey captured the Philippine Islands there was only one lighthouse in operation in the Philippine waters—that on Cape Melville, Balabac Island, south of the island of Palawan and marking the entrance between the China sea and the Sulu sea. As is the custom in time of war, the Spanish authorities had ordered all lighthouses to have their lights extinguished when it was discovered that an attack on Manila was threatened by the American navy. It appears that this order was carried out at all other places except at the lighthouse mentioned above, where the order was never received. The keeper of this light kept his light burning up to June 30, 1899, without assistance, and was paid for his services from May 1, 1899, to that date by the Philippine government.—Philippines Monthly.

## Fourierism.

Fourierism was a social system founded by Charles Fourier, born in France 1772, died 1837. Fourier advocated co-operative industrialism, coupled with the idea that society should be organized into "phalanges." The phalange was to number about 1,600 persons, who were to live in a common building, with a certain portion of soil for cultivation. The staple industry was to be agriculture, but the various groups might devote themselves to such as were best suited to their tastes. Several attempts were made to carry out Fourier's theories, but the result in each case was failure.—New York American.

## His Motto.

"You go around borrowing money all the time and yet you seem to be prosperous."

"I am."

"How do you manage it?"

"My motto is, 'Always put off till tomorrow those you have done today.'"

—Toledo Blade.

## Lots of Practice.

"Junkins, your wife is the most brilliant conversationalist I know of."

"Well, she's had lots of practice. She goes to a theater box party two or three times every week."—Chicago Tribune.

## Calling a Bluff.

Father—I never smoked when I was your age. Will you be able to tell that to your son? Willie—Not and keep my face as straight as you do, pop!—Puck.

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